



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

June 7, 2000

Lori Morris, Project Manager
Department of the Army
Seattle District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Re: Biological Opinion for Culvert Removal and Bridge Replacement in Wild Horse Creek, Kalama River, Washington, NMFS No. WSB-00-191

Dear Ms. Morris:

This document transmits the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BO) based on our review of the proposed culvert removal and bridge installation in Wild Horse Creek, Cowlitz County, Washington and its effects on Lower Columbia River (LCR) chinook salmon, LCR steelhead, and CR chum salmon in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Formal consultation for this project was initiated on April 19, 2000. This opinion also constitutes formal conference for LCR/Southwest coho salmon.

This BO is based on information provided in a Biological Assessment dated April 3, 2000. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file at the Washington Habitat Branch Office.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers determined that the proposed project was likely to adversely affect LCR chinook salmon, LCR steelhead, and CR chum salmon. The enclosed document represents NMFS' Biological Opinion related to the effects of the actions on federally listed salmonids.

The NMFS concludes that implementation of the proposed project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of LCR chinook, LCR steelhead, CR chum or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. In your review, please note the incidental take statement, which includes reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions designed to minimize take and avoid jeopardy.

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Brenkman of the Washington State Habitat Branch Office at (360) 534-9338.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Crouse
For: William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure
cc: Cowlitz County - Roger Maurer

